

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 01636 072046Z

17

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 USIA-06 /016 W

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R 072024Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6602

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTO DOMINGO 1636

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, DR

SUBJ: "OPERATION SHOESTRING" - SPORTS

REF: SANTO DOMINGO 533

1. DESPITE THE ABBREVIATED US BASEBALL SPRING TRAINING SEASON DUE TO THE DISPUTE BETWEEN OWNERS AND PLAYERS, WE ARRANGED TO SEND FOURTEEN (OUT OF THE PLANNED TWENTY-SIX) YOUNG MEN FROM THE POOR NEIGHBORHOODS OF SANTO DOMINGO TO SEVERAL SPRING TRAINING CAMPS IN FLORIDA WHERE THEY WERE THE RESPECTIVE GUESTS OF FOUR MAJOR LEAGUE TEAMS. ALL OF THE PARTICIPANTS HAVE NOW RETURNED, VERY FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY THEIR EXPERIENCE. IN TWO INSTANCES SO FAR, WE HAVE RECEIVED LETTERS OF APPRECIATION FROM THE LOCAL SPORTS CLUBS. AN ADDITIONAL INDICATION THAT WE ARE ON THE RIGHT TRACK WAS A LONG COLUMN IN ONE OF THE AFTERNOON LEFTWING NEWS-PAPERS URGING THAT THIS PROGRAM BE BOYCOTTED.

2. AS WITH ANY NEW PROGRAM, SOME BUGS DEVELOPED AT THE RECEIVING END WHICH CAN BE READILY OVERCOME WITH NEXT YEAR'S PROGRAM. WE ARE CONTEMPLATING EXPANDING THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS NEXT YEAR, PROVIDING OWNER-PLAYER RELATIONS PERMIT.

3. THE PROGRAM HAS RECEIVED REASONABLY GOOD LOCAL PUBLICITY. AS USUAL WITH "SHOESTRING" OPERATIONS THIS WAS A COOPERATIVE VENTURE INVOLVING THE SECRETARY OF SPORTS, THE GODR AIRLINE, DOMINICAN AND AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN, TOM SEMLER, AND THE EMBASSY. OTHER THAN OUR TIME AND SOME TELEPHONE CALLS, NO TAXPAYERS' FUNDS WERE INVOLVED.

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HURWITCH

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPERATION SHOESTRING, ATHLETIC PRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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From: SANTO DOMINGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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